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Dkt. 57005-A-PCT-US/JPW/GJC

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Robert Winchester, et al.  
U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known (Continuation Application  
of PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999)  
Filed : Herewith  
For : USE OF INHIBITORS OF THE ACTIVATION OF  
CXCR4 RECEPTOR BY SDF-1 IN TREATING  
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

#4/c  
df  
1-11-02

1185 Avenue Of The Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
January 31, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
Box: Patent Application

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE ACCOMPANYING CONTINUATION  
APPLICATION FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53**

Applicants request that the following amendment be made in the  
above-identified application:

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, after the title, please delete the first sentence and  
insert the following new sentence:

a' --This application is a continuation of PCT International  
Application No. PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999,  
designating the United States of America, which is a  
continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No.  
09/127,651, filed July 31, 1998, the contents of which are  
hereby incorporated by reference into the present  
application.--

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REMARKS

This application is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999, designating the United States of America, which is a continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/127,651, filed July 31, 1998. Accordingly, the parent application, PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/17178, is pending today in the United States of America pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §363, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

Claims 1-17 were pending in the subject application. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending and under examination.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.